

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2008

FORMER PHILADELPHIA POLICE OFFICER AMONG THREE MEN CHARGED IN HOME INVASION ROBBERY CASE

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an indictment against defendants Malik Snell, Tyree Aimes and Stephon Gibson, charging them with conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by robbery, attempted interference with interstate commerce by robbery, and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. The charges arise out of a December 2007 home invasion robbery committed by the defendants in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

According to the indictment, at the time of the robbery, Snell was an active Philadelphia police officer in the 18th District in Southwest Philadelphia. Snell, who had brought along his firearm, a Colt .380 firearm, loaded with 8 rounds of ammunition, drove Aimes and Gibson from Philadelphia to an apartment at 14 South Roland Street in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. As the defendants knew, a local drug dealer stored the proceeds of his drug sales at that apartment, and the goal of the home invasion robbery was to steal those proceeds. The defendants attempted to rob the residents of the apartment, but were unable to locate the drug proceeds and left empty-handed. During the robbery attempt, one of the victims received a bleeding wound to the head, while the other victim was left tied up with an electrical cord. After the robbery attempt, Snell and Aimes fled the scene in Snell's vehicle, leading Pottstown Police on a high speed chase that ended only after Snell crashed his car into another vehicle, injuring the passengers in that vehicle. Even then, Snell and Aimes continued to evade police, running away on foot until they were found and arrested with the help of a police canine unit.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT(S)

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Malik Snell	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	35 years old
Tyree Aimes	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	24 years old
Stephon Gibson	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	21 years old

¹ An indictment or information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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If convicted of all charges, each defendant faces a total maximum sentence of life imprisonment, including a 5-year mandatory minimum, a \$750,000 fine, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$300 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pottstown Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Leo R. Tsao and Curtis R. Douglas.

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Copies of news memos and related documents can also be found at www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae